H. R. 1815

To authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 1995

Mr. Rohrabacher (for himself and Mr. Hayes) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "National Oceanic and
- 5 Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1995".
- 6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
- 7 For the purposes of this Act, the term—

- 1 (1) "Act of 1890" means the Act entitled "An
 2 Act to increase the efficiency and reduce the ex3 penses of the Signal Corps of the Army, and to
 4 transfer the Weather Bureau to the Department of
 5 Agriculture", approved October 1, 1890 (26 Stat.
 6 653);
 7 (2) "Act of 1947" means the Act entitled "An
 - (2) "Act of 1947" means the Act entitled "An Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and for other purposes", approved August 6, 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883a et seq.);
 - (3) "Act of 1970" means the Act entitled "An Act to clarify the status and benefits of commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes", approved December 31, 1970 (33 U.S.C. 857–1 et seq.);
 - (4) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- 20 (5) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Com-21 merce.

TITLE I—ATMOSPHERIC, WEATH-

2 ER, AND SATELLITE PRO-

3 **GRAMS**

- 4 SEC. 101. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.
- 5 (a) Operations and Research.—There are au-
- 6 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the
- 7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
- 8 carry out the operations and research duties of the Na-
- 9 tional Weather Service, \$472,338,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- 10 Such duties include meteorological, hydrological, and
- 11 oceanographic public warnings and forecasts, as well as
- 12 applied research in support of such warnings and fore-
- 13 casts.
- 14 (b) Systems Acquisition.—There are authorized to
- 15 be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National
- 16 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the
- 17 public warning and forecast systems duties of the National
- 18 Weather Service, \$79,034,000 for fiscal year 1996. Such
- 19 duties include the development, acquisition, and imple-
- 20 mentation of major public warning and forecast systems.
- 21 None of the funds authorized under this subsection shall
- 22 be used for the purposes for which funds are authorized
- 23 under section 102(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
- 24 pheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public
- 25 Law 102-567). None of the funds authorized by such sec-

tion 102(b) shall be expended for a particular NEXRAD installation unless— (1) it is identified as a National Weather Serv-3 ice NEXRAD installation in the National Implementation Plan for modernization of the National Weather Service for fiscal year 1995, required under 6 7 section 703 of the National Oceanic and Atmos-8 pheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–567); or 9 (2) it is to be used only for spare parts, not as 10 11 an installation at a particular site. (c) ASOS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—Of the sums 12 authorized in subsection (b), \$16,952,000 for fiscal year 1996 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, 14 for the acquisition and deployment of— 16 (A) the Automated Surface Observing System 17 and related systems, including multisensor and 18 backup arrays for National Weather Service sites at 19 airports; and 20 (B) Automated Meteorological Observing Sys-21 tem and Remote Automated Meteorological Observ-22 ing System replacement units, 23 and to cover all associated activities, including program management and operations and maintenance.

1	(d) AWIPS AUTHORIZATION.—Of the sums author-
2	ized in subsection (b), there are authorized to be appro-
3	priated to the Secretary \$52,097,000 for fiscal year 1996,
4	to remain available until expended, for—
5	(1) the acquisition and deployment of the Ad-
6	vanced Weather Interactive Processing System and
7	NOAA Port and associated activities; and
8	(2) associated program management and oper-
9	ations and maintenance.
10	(e) Construction of Weather Forecast Of-
11	FICES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
12	Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13	Administration to carry out construction, repair, and
14	modification activities relating to new and existing weath-
15	er forecast offices, \$20,628,000 for fiscal year 1996. Such
16	activities include planning, design, and land acquisition re-
17	lated to such offices.
18	(f) Streamlining Weather Service Moderniza-
19	TION.—
20	(1) Repeals.—Sections 706 and 707 of the
21	Weather Service Modernization Act (15 U.S.C. 313
22	note) are repealed.
23	(2) Conforming amendments.—The Weather
24	Service Modernization Act (15 U.S.C. 313 note) is
25	amended—

1	(A) in section 702, by striking paragraph
2	(3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) through
3	(10) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respec-
4	tively; and
5	(B) in section 703—
6	(i) by striking "(a) NATIONAL IMPLE-
7	MENTATION PLAN.—";
8	(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and re-
9	designating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as
10	paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively;
11	and
12	(iii) by striking subsections (b) and
13	(c).
14	SEC. 102. ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.
15	(a) CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY RESEARCH.—There
16	are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to en-
17	able the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
18	tion to carry out its climate and air quality research du-
19	ties, \$86,757,000 for fiscal year 1996. Such duties include
20	interannual and seasonal climate research and long-term
21	climate and air quality research.
	(b) Atmospheric Programs.—There are author-
22	ized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the Na-
23	tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry

- 1 year 1996. Such duties include research for developing im-
- 2 proved prediction capabilities for atmospheric processes,
- 3 as well as solar-terrestrial research and services.
- 4 (c) GLOBE AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized
- 5 to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable the National
- 6 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the
- 7 Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environ-
- 8 ment program, \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- 9 SEC. 103. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA,
- 10 AND INFORMATION SERVICE.
- 11 (a) Satellite Observing Systems.—There are
- 12 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to enable
- 13 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
- 14 carry out its satellite observing systems duties,
- 15 \$323,906,000 for fiscal year 1996, to remain available
- 16 until expended. None of the funds authorized under this
- 17 subsection shall be used for the purposes for which funds
- 18 are authorized under section 105(d) of the National Oce-
- 19 anic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act
- 20 of 1992 (Public Law 102–567). Such duties include space-
- 21 craft procurement, launch, and associated ground station
- 22 systems involving polar orbiting and geostationary envi-
- 23 ronmental satellites, as well as the operation of such sat-
- 24 ellites. None of the funds authorized under this subsection
- 25 shall be used for the purposes for which funds are author-

- 1 ized under section 105(d) of the National Oceanic and At-
- 2 mospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992
- 3 (Public Law 102–567).
- 4 (b) POES Program Authorization.—Of the sums
- 5 authorized in subsection (a), there are authorized to be
- 6 appropriated to the Secretary \$188,883,000 for fiscal year
- 7 1996, to remain available until expended, for the procure-
- 8 ment of Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites K, L, M,
- 9 N, and N1, and the procurement of the launching and sup-
- 10 porting ground systems of such satellites.
- 11 (c) Geostationary Operational Environmental
- 12 SATELLITES.—Of the sums authorized in subsection (a),
- 13 there are authorized to be appropriated to the Adminis-
- 14 trator \$46,300,000 for fiscal year 1996, to remain avail-
- 15 able until expended—
- 16 (1) to procure up to three additional Geo-
- 17 stationary Operational Environmental NEXT Sat-
- ellites (GOES I-M clones) and instruments; and
- 19 (2) for contracts, and amendments or modifica-
- 20 tions of contracts, with the developer of previous
- 21 GOES-NEXT satellites for the acquisition of the ad-
- ditional satellites and instruments described in para-
- 23 graph (1).
- 24 (d) Environmental Data and Information
- 25 Services.—There are authorized to be appropriated to

- 1 the Secretary to enable the National Oceanic and Atmos-
- 2 pheric Administration to carry out its environmental data
- 3 and information services duties, \$31,207,000 for fiscal
- 4 year 1996. Such duties include climate data services, geo-
- 5 physical data services, and environmental assessment and
- 6 information services.
- 7 (e) National Polar-Orbiting Operational En-
- 8 VIRONMENTAL SATELLITE SYSTEM PROGRAM AUTHOR-
- 9 IZATION.—Of the sums authorized in subsection (a), there
- 10 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, for fis-
- 11 cal year 1996, \$39,500,000, to remain available until ex-
- 12 pended, for the procurement of the National Polar-
- 13 Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, and
- 14 the procurement of the launching and supporting ground
- 15 systems of such satellites.

16 TITLE II—MARINE RESEARCH

- 17 SEC. 201. NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE.
- 18 (a) Mapping and Charting.—There are authorized
- 19 to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National
- 20 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out
- 21 mapping and charting activities under the Act of 1947 and
- 22 any other law involving those activities, \$29,149,000.
- 23 (b) Geodesy.—There are authorized to be appro-
- 24 priated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic
- 25 and Atmospheric Administration to carry out geodesy ac-

- 1 tivities under the Act of 1947 and any other law involving
- 2 those activities, \$19,927,000 for fiscal year 1996.
 - (c) Observation and Prediction.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out observation and prediction activities under the Act of 1947 and any other law involving those activities, \$11,279,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- (2) CIRCULATORY SURVEY PROGRAM.—In addition to amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Circulatory Survey Program, \$695,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- (3) OCEAN AND EARTH SCIENCES.—In addition to amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out ocean and earth science activities, \$4,231,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- (d) ESTUARINE AND COASTAL ASSESSMENT.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to

- support estuarine and coastal assessment activities under the Act of 1947 and any other law involving those activities, \$1,171,000 for fiscal year 1996.
 - (2) OCEAN ASSESSMENT.—In addition to amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the National Status and Trends Program, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Program, and the Hazardous Materials Response Program, \$8,401,000 for fiscal year 1996.
 - (3) Damage assessment program.—In addition to amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Damage Assessment Program, \$585,000 for fiscal year 1996.
 - (4) Coastal Ocean Program.—In addition to amounts authorized under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the Coastal Ocean Program, \$9,158,000 for fiscal year 1996.

SEC. 202. OCEAN AND GREAT LAKES RESEARCH.

- 2 (a) Marine Prediction Research.—There are au-
- 3 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the
- 4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
- 5 carry out marine prediction research activities under the
- 6 Act of 1947, the Act of 1890, and any other law involving
- 7 those activities, \$13,763,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- 8 (b) National Sea Grant College Program.—(1)
- 9 Section 212(a) of the National Sea Grant College Pro-
- 10 gram Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended to read as fol-
- 11 lows:
- 12 "(a) Grants and Contracts; Fellowships.—
- 13 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sec-
- 14 tions 205 and 208, \$34,500,000 for fiscal year 1996.".
- 15 (2) Section 212(b) of the National Sea Grant College
- 16 Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(b)) is amended by striking
- 17 "an amount" and all that follows through "not to exceed
- 18 \$2,900,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$1,500,000 for
- 19 fiscal year 1996".
- 20 (3) Section 203(4) of the National Sea Grant College
- 21 Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122(4)) is amended by striking
- 22 "discipline or field" and all that follows through "public
- 23 administration)" and inserting in lieu thereof "field or dis-
- 24 cipline involving scientific research".

1 TITLE III—PROGRAM SUPPORT

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<i>)</i>	SEC	301	PRAGR	ΔM	SUPPORT	

- 3 (a) Executive Direction and Administrative
- 4 ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to
- 5 the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmos-
- 6 pheric Administration to carry out executive direction and
- 7 administrative activities under the Act of 1970 and any
- 8 other law involving those activities, \$20,632,000 for fiscal
- 9 year 1996.
- 10 (b) Central Administrative Support.—There
- 11 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to en-
- 12 able the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
- 13 tion to carry out central administrative support activities
- 14 under the Act of 1970 and any other law involving those
- 15 activities, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- 16 (c) Retired Pay.—There are authorized to be ap-
- 17 propriated to the Secretary, for retired pay for retired
- 18 commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
- 19 pheric Administration under the Act of 1970, \$7,706,000
- 20 for fiscal year 1996.
- 21 (d) Marine Services.—
- 22 (1) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—Notwithstand-
- ing any other provision of law, the Secretary is au-
- thorized to enter into contracts for data or days-at-
- sea to fulfill the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

- Administration missions of marine research, climate 1 2 research, fisheries research, and mapping and chart-3 ing services.
- (2) UNOLS VESSEL AGREEMENTS.—In fulfilling the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-6 tration mission requirements described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use excess capacity of Uni-7 8 versity-National Oceanographic Laboratory System 9 vessels where appropriate, and may enter into 10 memoranda of agreement with operators of those vessels to carry out those mission requirements.
 - AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out marine services activities, including activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2), \$60,689,000 for fiscal year 1996.
- 19 (e) AIRCRAFT SERVICES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to enable the National Oce-20 21 anic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out aircraft services activities (including aircraft operations, mainte-23 nance, and support) under the Act of 1970 and any other law involving those activities, \$9,548,000 for fiscal year 1996. 25

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1	(f) Facilities Repairs and Renovations.—There
2	are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to en-
3	able the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
4	tion to carry out facilities repairs and renovations,
5	\$7,374,000 for fiscal year 1996.
6	TITLE IV—STREAMLINING OF
7	OPERATIONS
8	SEC. 401. PROGRAM TERMINATIONS.
9	(a) TERMINATIONS.—No funds may be appropriated
10	for the following programs and accounts:
11	(1) The National Undersea Research Program.
12	(2) The Fleet Modernization, Shipbuilding, and
13	Construction Account.
14	(3) The Charleston, South Carolina, Special
15	Management Plan.
16	(4) Chesapeake Bay Observation Buoys.
17	(5) Federal/State Weather Modernization
18	Grants.
19	(6) The Southeast Storm Research Account.
20	(7) The Southeast United States Caribbean
21	Fisheries Oceanographic Coordinated Investigations
22	Program.
23	(8) National Institute for Environmental Re-
24	newal.
25	(9) The Lake Champlain Study.

1	(10) The Maine Marine Research Center.
2	(11) The South Carolina Cooperative Geodetic
3	Survey Account.
4	(12) Pacific Island Technical Assistance.
5	(13) Sea Grant/Oyster Disease Account.
6	(14) National Coastal Research and Develop-
7	ment Institute Account.
8	(15) VENTS program.
9	(16) National Weather Service Agriculture and
10	Fruit Frost Program.
11	(17) National Weather Service Fire Weather
12	Service.
13	(18) National Weather Service Regional Cli-
14	mate Centers.
15	(19) National Weather Service Samoa Weather
16	Forecast Office Repair and Upgrade Account.
17	(b) Report.—Not later than 60 days after the date
18	of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
19	to the Committee on Science of the House of Representa-
20	tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
21	Transportation of the Senate a report certifying that all
22	the programs listed in subsection (a) will be terminated
23	no later than September 30, 1995.
24	(c) Repeal of Sea Grant Programs.—

- 1 (1) Repeals.—(A) Section 208(b) of the Na-
- tional Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C.
- 3 1127(b)) is repealed.
- 4 (B) Section 3 of the Sea Grant Program Im-
- 5 provement Act of 1976 (33 U.S.C. 1124a) is re-
- 6 pealed.
- 7 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
- 8 209(b)(1) of the National Sea Grant College Pro-
- 9 gram Act (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)(1)) is amended by
- striking "and section 3 of the Sea Grant Improve-
- 11 ment Act of 1976".
- 12 (d) Additional Repeal.—The NOAA Fleet Mod-
- 13 ernization Act (33 U.S.C. 851 note) is repealed.
- 14 SEC. 402. LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATIONS.
- 15 (a) Subsequent Fiscal Years.—Notwithstanding
- 16 any other provision of law, no funds are authorized to be
- 17 appropriated for any fiscal year after fiscal year 1996 for
- 18 carrying out the programs for which funds are authorized
- 19 by this Act.
- 20 (b) FISCAL YEAR 1996.—No more than
- 21 \$1,692,470,000 is authorized to be appropriated to the
- 22 Secretary for fiscal year 1996, by this Act or any other
- 23 Act, to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
- 24 ministration to carry out all activities associated with Op-
- 25 erations, Research, and Facilities.

- 1 (c) REDUCTION IN TRAVEL BUDGET.—Of the sums
- 2 appropriated under this Act for Operations, Research, and
- 3 Facilities, no more than \$20,000,000 may be used for re-
- 4 imbursement of travel and related expenses for National
- 5 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration personnel.
- 6 SEC. 403. REDUCTION IN THE COMMISSIONED OFFICER
- 7 corps.
- 8 (a) MAXIMUM NUMBER.—The total number of com-
- 9 missioned officers on the active list of the National Oce-
- 10 anic and Atmospheric Administration shall not exceed—
- 11 (1) 369 for fiscal year 1996;
- 12 (2) 100 for fiscal year 1997; and
- 13 (3) 50 for fiscal year 1998.
- 14 No such commissioned officers are authorized for any fis-
- 15 cal year after fiscal year 1998.
- 16 (b) SEPARATION PAY.—The Secretary may make
- 17 separations required pursuant to subsection (a) without
- 18 providing separation pay.

19 TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

- 20 SEC. 501. WEATHER DATA BUOYS.
- 21 (a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any unau-
- 22 thorized person to remove, change the location of, ob-
- 23 struct, willfully damage, make fast to, or interfere with
- 24 any weather data buoy established, installed, operated, or
- 25 maintained by the National Data Buoy Center.

1	(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—The Administrator is author-
2	ized to assess a civil penalty against any person who vio-
3	lates any provision of this section in an amount of not
4	more than \$10,000 for each violation. Each day during
5	which such violation continues shall be considered a new
6	offense. Such penalties shall be assessed after notice and
7	opportunity for a hearing.
8	(c) REWARDS.—The Administrator may offer and
9	pay rewards for the apprehension and conviction, or for
10	information helpful therein, of persons found interfering
11	in violation of law, with data buoys maintained by the Na-
12	tional Data Buoy Center; or for information leading to
13	the discovery of missing National Weather Service prop-
14	erty or the recovery thereof.
15	SEC. 502. DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.
16	(a) IN GENERAL.—To protect life and property and
17	enhance the national economy, the Secretary, through the
18	National Weather Service, except as outlined in subsection
19	(b), shall be responsible for—
20	(1) forecasts and shall serve as the sole official
21	source of weather warnings;
22	(2) the issue of storm warnings;
23	(3) the collection, exchange, and distribution of
24	meteorological, hydrological, climatic, and oceano-
25	graphic data and information; and

1	(4) the preparation of hydrometeorological guid-
2	ance and core forecast information.
3	(b) Competition With Private Sector.—The
4	National Weather Service shall not compete, or assist
5	other entities to compete, with the private sector when a
6	service is currently provided or can be provided by com-
7	mercial enterprise, unless—
8	(1) the Secretary finds that the private sector
9	is unwilling or unable to provide the services; and
10	(2) the service provides vital weather warnings
11	and forecasts for the protection of lives and property
12	of the general public.
13	(c) AMENDMENTS.—The Act of 1890 is amended—
14	(1) by striking section 3 (15 U.S.C. 313); and
15	(2) in section 9 (15 U.S.C. 317), by striking all
16	after "Department of Commerce" and inserting in
17	lieu thereof a period.
18	(d) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
19	of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
20	to the Committee on Science of the House of Representa-
21	tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
22	Transportation of the Senate a report detailing all Na-
23	tional Weather Service activities which do not conform to
24	the requirements of this section and outlining a timetable
25	for their termination.

1 SEC. 503. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.

2	(a) In General.—Notwithstanding section 3302 (b)
3	and (c) of title 31, United States Code, and subject to
4	subsection (b) of this section, all amounts received by the
5	United States in settlement of, or judgment for, damage
6	claims arising from the October 9, 1992, allision of the
7	vessel ZACHERY into the National Oceanic and Atmos-
8	pheric Administration research vessel DISCOVERER—
9	(1) shall be retained as an offsetting collection
10	in the Marine Services account of the National Oce-
11	anic and Atmospheric Administration;
12	(2) shall be deposited in that account upon re-
13	ceipt by the United States Government; and
14	(3) shall be available only for obligation for Na-
15	tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ves-
16	sel repairs.
17	(b) Limitation.—Not more than \$518,757.09 of the
18	amounts referred to in subsection (a) may be deposited
19	into the Marine Services account pursuant to subsection

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20 (a).